

Special Thanks:

The citizens of Columbia
Mayor Darwin Hindman
Columbia City Council
City Manager Ray Beck
Coalition to Save Stephens Lake Park
CARE (Citizens Advocating for Recreation and the Environment)
Columbia Office of Cultural Affairs
Stephens College
Missouri Department of Conservation
Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission
Ann Gowans, Former Chair of the Parks and Recreation Commission

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contributed to the success of this project:*

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The Dedication of Stephens Lake Park

June 26, 2005



City of Columbia, Missouri

It began in November 2000 when Columbia voters approved a parks sales tax to purchase and develop 111 acres on Broadway in central-eastern Columbia. Officials from the City and Stephens College completed the transaction in 2001 and the development of Stephens Lake Park began.

Columbia Parks and Recreation staff started planning the park in April 2001. The Department's first priority in the process was to gather comprehensive public input. An open public forum was held to specifically seek ideas for the development of the Stephens Lake property.

From the ideas generated, park planners developed four options. The Parks Department conducted a survey and received responses from 497 residents. A majority of respondents chose a combination of a park and arboretum as their preferred plan. Based on comments received, Parks staff presented a modified version of the park/arboretum plan to the City Council. After a series of public hearings and meetings, the Council approved the master plan for Stephens Lake Park in the spring of 2002.

The master plan is intended to be a long-range development plan. Stephens Lake Park features hard surface and gravel trails, a swimming beach with bathhouse area, fishing lake, picnic shelters, a pier and boardwalk extending across the lake, playgrounds, climbing boulder and an open playfield. An amphitheater is planned for the western area of the park. Arboretum features planned for the park include demonstration gardens, various tree collections, a wetlands demonstration area, a prairie restoration area and a waterfall garden. The Parks staff is working to complete an indoor shelter which will be available for summer programs and public rental.

Artist Carol Fleming was selected by the City's Standing Committee on Public Art and Commission on Cultural Affairs to create site-specific public art for Stephens Lake Park. Once installed, her ceramic sculptures, called *Look Out Point* and intended for the hill near the amphitheater, will be a special feature of the park.

The City of Columbia appreciates the support shown by the community for Stephens Lake Park. Thank you for being here today to share in the dedication ceremony.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

Stephens Lake Park
2 p.m., Sunday, June 26

Welcome and Introductions ~ Mr. Mike Hood, Director, Columbia
Parks and Recreation Department

Remarks ~ Mr. Ray Beck, Manager, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Mayor Darwin Hindman, City of Columbia

Remarks ~ Barbara Hoppe, Coalition to Save Stephens Lake

Ribbon Cutting ~ Columbia Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors

City Council

Darwin Hindman, Mayor
Almeta Crayton
Chris Janku
Bob Hutton
Jim Loveless
Laura Nauser
Brian Ash

Raymond Beck, City Manager

Michael Hood, Parks and Recreation Director

Columbia Parks and Recreation Commission

Dan Devine, Larry Hine, Dennis Knudson, Terry Kloeppel,
Julia Grus, Bill Pauls and Marin Blevins